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Washington LABOR MARKET

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Washington State
Employment Security

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Employment and Training
Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

***Distressed Areas--Pages 11 - 14 ***

Highlights

Seasonal Expansion Begins

Employment began its seasonal expansion in February as winter began to loosen its grip, and unemployment declined for the first time since last summer. Unemployment in Washington State fell from 188,500 and 8.4 percent of the labor force in January (revised) to 178,000 and 7.9 percent in February. The reduction in unemployment was greater than usual for February and the seasonally adjusted rate fell from 7.3 to 7.0 percent--the lowest level in eight years.

Economic Expansion Continues

Total employment rose 21,200 in February. Even after seasonal adjustment, the job total was up a strong 15,200. Exceptionally mild and dry February weather was a factor in the gain, but overall strength in the state's basic industries was even more important. Over the year, total employment in the state was up 95,800 in February with growth in nearly all

Volume 12, Number 3

	Feb. 1988* (Prel.)	Jan. 1988 (Rev.)	Feb. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	2,267,400	2,256,700	2,185,700
Total Employment	2,089,400	2,068,200	1,993,600
Total Unemployment	178,000	188,500	192,100
State Unemployment Rate	7.9	8.4	8.8
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.3	7.2

*These data represent alternative estimates of labor force conditions developed by the State Employment Security Department. They are more comparable with data released in previous years than are the official Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates developed for federal program purposes. (Data in this table are not seasonally adjusted.)

of the state's major industries. Even if the rate of job expansion slows later this year as is likely because of less growth in aerospace, the drought, and the effect of lower housing starts on the lumber industry, the economy's momentum will ensure 1988 will be a banner year for employment growth.

JANUARY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Farmers Begin New Year

Agriculture accounted for much of the job growth in February with farmers busy pruning fruit trees, repairing machinery and doing the numerous tasks necessary prior to this year's harvests. Asparagus will be the first of the major harvests and should begin in April and employ several thousand workers through May.

Education Payrolls Rebound

Nonfarm industries also felt the approach of spring, and nonagricutural wage and salary employment rose 8,200 in February. Government added 5,400 to post the largest increase. The major expansion in public payrolls occurred in education which rebounded 3,600 following the usual cutbacks in December and January. Employment in education fell during the holiday vacation period when several hundred student employees at colleges and support staff throughout the educational system were laid off until the beginning of a new term.

Private education also expanded in February and helped boost payrolls in services 5,200. Other service activities expanding included agricultural services, income-tax preparation services, ski resorts, and firms providing temporary workers to other businesses. Health services added 400 in February to continue its long-term expansion. Most of the increase was at hospitals with several actively advertising for registered nurses and other skilled personnel.

Retail Payrolls Down
But Spring Expansion Begins

The expansion in government and services in February was partially offset by a seasonal cutback in retail trade which fell 4,300 because of the completion of January sales and inventory work at department and apparel stores. Signs of seasonal growth, however, were noted in several other retail industries. Hardware stores and lumber yards added staff with interest picking up in yard work and remodeling jobs. Restaurants and gasoline service stations enjoyed additional business with the public traveling more because of improving weather. Department and apparel store employment will pick up in April with spring clothing promotions.

Counter to the drop on the retail level, wholesale trade rose 700 in February. Machinery and equipment wholesalers added staff, a reflection of strength in basic industries, while dealers in sportswear, nursery, garden and farm supplies expanded with orders coming in for spring items. Employment at fruit and vegetable warehouses, declined further. The beginning of the asparagus harvest, however, will reverse this trend in April.

Roadbuilding Starts Up

Construction began its annual expansion in February thanks to unseasonally mild weather. Nearly all of the growth was in street, highway, and bridge construction, which is especially dependent on weather conditions. Homebuilding declined further. Hopefully, recent declines in mortgage rates will enable homebuilding to expand normally this spring and summer. Nationally, housing starts rebounded 8.9 percent in February on a seasonally adjusted basis following losses of 1.9 percent in January and 15.8 percent in December. Building permits also bounced back in February with a gain of 11.5 percent following a drop of 7.6 percent in January.

Real Estate and Insurance Up, Banking Down

Elsewhere in the nonmanufacturing industries, finance, insurance, and real estate added 200 with growth in both real estate and insurance. Commercial banking payrolls, however, continued to decline with banks attempting to improve profits in the face of strong competition from other financial institutions.

Manufacturing Up Slightly As Aerospace Growth Slows

Manufacturing employment began to edge up in February with seasonal influences turning positive. Canneries, freezing plants and juice manufacturers added 300 to post the largest gain. Numerous industries saw their winter declines end and reported employment gains of 100. The increase of 100 in aerospace, however, marked a slowdown in the industry's growth rate. Monthly increases in aerospace employment between 1984 and 1987 averaged 500. Boeing announced at the beginning of the year that it expected the size of its workforce to remain relatively stable this year.

YEAR-TO-YEAR DEVELOPMENTS

Job Growth Strong

The year-to-year comparison of employment data indicates the state's economy is still expanding at a brisk pace. A slowdown in the growth rate may well occur this year, but the latest data show vigorous growth continuing. In February, nonfarm wage and salary employment in the state was up 83,800 over the year for a gain of 4.7 percent. Employment has also been expanding at a rapid clip nationally, but over the same 12-month period the gain in nonfarm payrolls in the nation was 3.1 percent, or well below the expansion rate in this state. The major reason for the exceptional growth in Washington, of course, has been the major job gains in the state's aerospace industry. Without the large gains in aerospace employment, the state's growth rate can be expected to fall more in line with that of the nation's.

Over One-Third Of New Jobs In Services

As in the nation, the largest job expansions were in the services industries. In Washington State services employment rose 30,300 year to year to account for 36 percent of the new nonfarm jobs. All major service industries posted sizable gains over the year including hotels, motels, automobile repair, amusements, private education social services (day care, care of the elderly), and membership organizations (fraternal, charitable, youth, etc.). The largest gains, however, were in business services and medical

services. Business services alone rose 10,000 in response to rapid growth in commercial activity. Expansions at firms providing temporary employees to other business accounted for 38 percent of the new jobs in business services. Another 19 percent of the new business services jobs occurred at firms providing computer and data processing services. Medical services added 7,800 jobs over the year to account for one-fourth of the new service jobs. The substantial growth rate in medical services will undoubtedly continue for several years. Individuals age 65 and over are one of the fastest growing segments of the population.

Retail Trade Jobs Growing

An increasing population and growth in basic industry jobs enabled employment in retail trade to advance 13,900 over the year. Nearly all segments of the industry expanded except furniture stores, where the job total slipped slightly. The largest gains occurred at department stores, food stores, and restaurants.

Young Workers Needed

Judging by help wanted signs, the expansion could have been even larger provided there were a larger supply of entry level workers, particularly youth. The number of youth aged 16-24 has declined since 1980, and while their population will rebound after 1995, there will still be fewer in the year 2000 than there were in 1980. The decline in the youth population will create problems for some of the fastest growing industries such as fast food restaurants which have a high proportion of young employees.

Employment also increased in other nonmanufacturing industries over the year, although at a more moderate pace than trade and services. Government civilian payrolls (up 6,700) rose in line with population growth. Construction payrolls moved up 5,500 with the largest increase in the nonresidential sector. Heavy construction, including streets and highways, was down slightly. Transportation-communications-utilities employed 4,300 more workers: growing business activity boosted trucking and warehousing; fare discounting helped air transportation to expand; communications, however, was slightly lower as telephone companies cut staffing to improve profits which are under pressure because of deregulation.

Employment Lower in Banking

Wholesale trade payrolls advanced 3,800 year to year to support a more vigorous retail sector. Finance-insurance-real estate employment (up 1,200) posted a gain of less than one percent. All of the increase was in insurance and real estate. Employment at banks, savings and loans and other credit agencies declined. At one time this was one of the fastest growing industries because of rapid growth in branch banking. Eroding profits, however, have resulted in mergers and other cost-cutting measures recently which has eliminated some branches and pared administrative staffs.

Manufacturing on Fast Track

Manufacturing employment has enjoyed a resurgence over the past year in both the state and nation largely due to the decline in the value of the dollar relative to foreign currencies which has made American goods more competitive both here and abroad. In Washington State manufacturing employment actually rose relatively more over the past year than payrolls in the nonmanufacturing industries, 5.8 percent versus 4.5 percent.

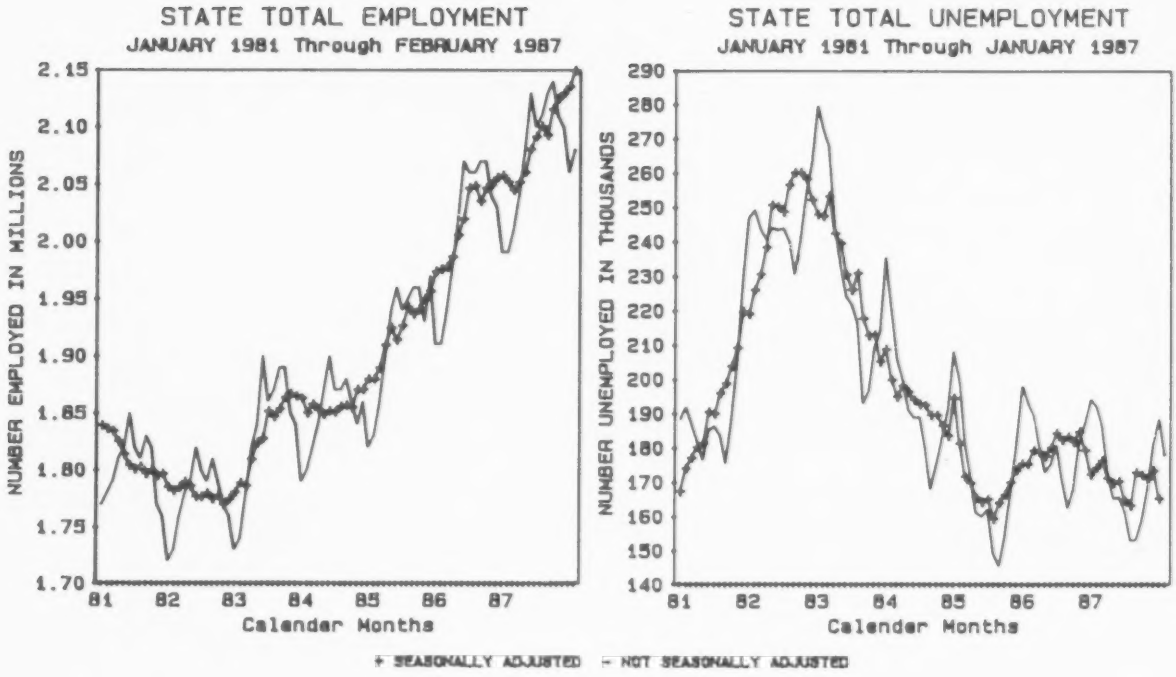
Aerospace rose 8,900 year to year, but other basic industries were also expanding and added 8,800 additional manufacturing jobs. Machinery, up 2,100, was credited with the largest increase among these industries. The demand from manufacturing industries for equipment to upgrade and expand their facilities to meet export demand has increased orders for machine tools substantially in recent months. In addition, recovery in the computer industry has increased demand for components manufactured by several machinery firms in the state.

Ugly Duckling

The food and kindred products industry added 1,400 employees over the year. About 400 of the increase occurred because of the temporary closure of one large plant in February 1987, but the openings of several new surimi processing plants in the state in the last several months was the major factor. Surimi plants produce imitation crab and shrimp meat from bottom fish.

Lumber and wood products was up 1,000 over the year in February. The margin of growth has narrowed in the last three months, and a number of mills have complained of the high price of logs because of log exports. According to the Western Wood Products Association, year to date lumber production though the week ended March 12, 1988 in western Washington and Oregon was down nearly 16 percent from the comparable period in 1987.

Other manufacturing industries reporting sizable job gains over the year were aluminum (up 800) and printing-publishing (up 1,200). The only loss occurred in chemicals (down 600) where employment declined because of cutbacks in the Hanford area.



AREA TRENDS

Unemployment declined slightly more in Eastern Washington than on the west side between January and February because of the seasonal expansion in agriculture, which is relatively more important east of the Cascades. In Western Washington the jobless rate fell one-half point to 6.9 percent in February, while Eastern Washington's overall rate fell seven-tenths of a point to 11.2.

While the overall trend was down in Eastern Washington, changes varied considerably because of relative weather conditions and types of farm activity. In the colder northern counties, changes in unemployment were relatively small. Okanogan County's rate edged up from 16.4 to 16.5 percent, while the Wenatchee area's rate

slipped from 12.2 to 11.9 percent. By contrast, the rate in Yakima County dropped from 17.1 to 15.7 percent; Walla Walla saw its rate fall from 12.9 to 11.9 percent, and the jobless rate in the Tri-Cities area declined from 11.3 to 10.3 percent.

Changes in unemployment rates in the state's major metropolitan areas were relatively moderate because they are less influenced by variations in agricultural employment. The rate in the Seattle Metropolitan Area slipped from 6.1 to 5.8 percent; Tacoma's rate moved down from 8.0 to 7.6 percent, and the rate in Spokane fell from 8.3 to 8.0 percent.

INDUSTRY NOTES

Water Rationing Likely For Yakima Valley Farms

Reservoirs which supply Yakima Valley farmers with water were filled to only 20 percent of capacity in early March because of the drought compared to a normal 70 percent at that time of the year. Rationing is expected unless the valley receives 150 percent of normal rainfall between March and late summer. Water shortages would reduce crop yields and could even threaten the survival of fruit trees.

Because this is the second year of below normal precipitation, ground water is exceptionally low. Last year, a water shortage in the Tacoma area forced a pulp mill to curtail operations for a short time. Logging was shut down throughout the state at times because of fire hazard conditions in forests, and some mills reduced operations because of a shortage of logs. Water use restrictions were imposed in both Seattle and Tacoma.

BPA May Increase Rates

Seattle and Tacoma water reservoirs are now nearly full because of above normal rainfall in late March, but reservoirs serving the Yakima Valley are still low. Because of inadequate water storage behind the dams on the Columbia River, the Bonneville Power Administration may be forced to purchase electricity from Canada and fire up a coal plant in Oregon. Both of which are more expensive than using its own hydropower and would require a rate increase.

Exports Boost Port Business

Growth in U.S. exports has boosted activity at Puget Sound ports. Container exports rose 32 percent at the Port of Seattle and 18 percent at the Port of Tacoma between 1986 and 1987. In addition, export air freight was up 40 percent at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

The substantial increase in exports was attributed to a decline in the value of the dollar, the establishment of factories in the U.S. by foreign interests, and the availability of shipping containers, most of which were returning to Asia empty.

In March, Honda became the first Japanese automaker to export its own U.S. built cars to Japan. The automobiles were loaded at the Port of Portland. Honda expects to export 5,000 U.S. built cars to Japan in the next year and 50,000 to Japan and 20,000 to other nations annually by 1991. The Port of Tacoma is now negotiating with Japanese automakers who produce cars in the U.S. to handle their exports.

Boeing Still Flying High

In early March Boeing received an order for 50 jetliners worth $1.5 billion and options for 30 additional planes which, if exercised, could push the total order to $2.4 billion. The order from U.S. Air Group calls for deliveries on the first 50 planes to begin in one year and continue through 1991. In late March, Boeing received an order from Lufthansa Airlines for 20 jetliners worth about $535 million and options for 20 additional planes.

Surimi Factory For Olympia

Calista Sea Foods Inc. opened a 72,000 square foot surimi factory in Olympia in March. Surimi is produced from pollack that has been caught, chopped and frozen aboard ships off the Alaskan coast. The surimi can be formed and flavored to imitate many products, but the most popular are crab and shrimp meat. Washington State now has nine surimi plants. The Olympia factory employs 42 workers a shift, and the firm expects to operate around the clock by late spring. Calista Sea Foods is owned by an Alaskan native corporation.

$50 Million Plant For Hanford

The U.S. Energy Department announced in March plans to contract a $50 million plant to build generators for the Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars) on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The facility will have an annual budget of $10 million and will employ approximately 30 workers. The plant was considered a first step by the Energy Department in providing alternative employment in the Tri-Cities area following their decision to close the N Reactor.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Economic indicators in February were mixed but favorable on balance. The Index of Leading Economic Indicators increased strongly in February; consumer spending rose; factory orders declined from January but were above their year-earlier level; hiring expectations were down for 1988 but still substantial; purchasing agents, however, noted a slowdown in new order growth.

Purchasing Agents See Growth Slowing

The National Association of Purchasing Management reported that their monthly survey indicated growth in new orders slowed substantially from January, but that growth in the economy is still healthy. In February, 31 percent of the purchasing agents surveyed reported orders at their firms increased, while 18 percent said their new-order rate was down. The association said that much of the growth in new orders is from export demand, but orders from abroad also slipped in February. Approximately 33 percent of the exporting companies covered by the survey reported new export orders rose in February, down from 39 percent in January.

Hiring Expectations Down But Still Strong

A survey by Dunn and Bradstreet Corporation found that U.S. businesses expect to hire 20 percent fewer workers in 1988 than in 1987. Hiring in 1987, however, was exceptionally strong with three million new jobs created. The survey of 5,000 companies indicated that 30 percent expected to expand their payrolls in 1988, while seven percent expected cutbacks.

Hiring in manufacturing in 1988 is expected to increase from 1987 despite the overall trend. According to the survey over 610,000 new manufacturing jobs will be created in the nation in 1988, three times the increase in 1987 and the largest number of new manufacturing jobs since 1979. Growing exports were the reason for the rising expectations of manufacturers.

Factory Orders Down But Up From Year Ago

Factory orders fell 0.8 percent between January and February but were still up 8.3 percent over the year, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. Analysts attributed the drop in February to efforts to trim inventories following a build-up in the fourth quarter. Nonetheless, many economists remain optimistic in their outlook for manufacturing because of strong export demand and a high level of unfilled orders.

Consumer Confidence And Spending Up

A survey by the Conference Board, a business supported research organization, of 5,000 households found that plans to purchase cars, houses, and major appliances are now even stronger than they were before the stock market sell off on October 19. A spokesman for the board attributed part of the resurgence in consumer confidence to lower withholding tax rates this year.

Consumers not only had the willingness to buy in February but also the means. Disposable personal income increased 1.1 percent from January, in part due to lower income tax withholding. As a result, consumer spending rose a healthy 0.7 percent in February. The increase marks a turnaround from the fourth quarter when consumer spending declined and prompted numerous pessimistic forecasts for the economy in 1988.

Leading Indicators Move Up

The Index of Leading Economic Indicators, the government's main forecasting gauge, rose 0.9 percent in February, following a drop of 1.1 percent (revised) in January. Trends in the index in recent months indicate a recession is not likely to occur soon but strong growth in the economy is not likely either. The major reasons for the decline in the index in January were an increase in initial claims for unemployment compensation and a drop in credit outstanding. A major factor in the increase in the index in February, however, was a decline in initial unemployment claims as well as a strong increase in building permits which have been weak in recent months. Data on credit were not available in computing the preliminary February index.

Besides unemployment claims and building permits, other leading indicators contributing to the increase in the index in February were orders for consumer goods, stock market prices, and the money supply. Leading indicators pointing downward were the average workweek in manufacturing, orders for plant and equipment, sensitive material prices, and the business delivery index.

Distressed Areas

A number of state programs are available to assist areas with high unemployment. Eligible areas are termed distressed. A county is classified as distressed if it had an average unemployment rate in the last three complete calendar years that was at least 20 percent

above the statewide average. For the current year, the county classifications are based on unemployment data from January 1985 through December 1987. A county needed an average unemployment rate of at least 9.6 percent to qualify as distressed. The statewide average unemployment rate was 8.0 percent for the three year period. Douglas County was added to the list this year while Benton County was dropped.

Under legislation enacted this year a metropolitan area may qualify if its average unemployment rate in the last complete calendar year exceeded the statewide rate by 20 percent. Since the statewide average in 1987 was 7.6 percent, the qualifying rate was 9.1 percent. The Tri-Cities (Benton and Franklin counties) and Yakima metropolitan areas qualified under this legislation.

Distressed areas qualify for a variety of benefits, such as loans and grants to attract or retain businesses, financing infrastructure improvements, and matching funds to stimulate private investments. Firms building manufacturing plants in distressed areas are eligible for sales and use tax deferrals, and employers in these areas are eligible for special benefits for hiring unemployment insurance and public assistance recipients.

Areas classified as distressed are identified in the tables on pages 13 and 14 .

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
(All Items, Urban Consumers, 1982-1984=100)**

	INDEXES			PERCENT CHANGE Year Ending	
	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988
U.S. City Average	116.0	115.7	111.6	3.9	4.0
	July-Dec. 1987	July-Dec. 1986		July-Dec. '86 to July-Dec. '87	
Seattle*	110.3	106.7		3.4	

* The index for Seattle reflects prices in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

** The base period for the index has been changed from 1967=100 to 1982-1984=100. The conversion factors for the All Items, Urban Consumers Indexes on the 1967=100 base are U.S=0.3338279, Seattle=0.3280421.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

THREE YEAR AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT
RATES USED TO DETERMINE DISTRESSED AREAS 1/

	Three Year Average Unemployment Rate (Jan. 85 - Dec. 87)	Distressed Areas: Unemployment Rate Greater Than or Equal to 9.6 Percent
WASHINGTON STATE	8.0	
Adams	11.6	Adams
Asotin	8.6	
Benton	9.4	
Chelan	11.9	Chelan
Clallam	9.8	Clallam
Clark	8.3	
Columbia	16.6	Columbia
Cowlitz	11.1	Cowlitz
Douglas	9.6	Douglas
Ferry	13.0	Ferry
Franklin	11.3	Franklin
Garfield	8.7	
Grant	11.6	Grant
Grays Harbor	12.3	Grays Harbor
Island	6.5	
Jefferson	8.3	
King	6.1	
Kitsap	6.1	
Kittitas	10.6	Kittitas
Klickitat	16.3	Klickitat
Lewis	12.0	Lewis
Lincoln	6.6	
Mason	8.9	
Okanogan	14.7	Okanogan
Pacific	12.8	Pacific
Pend Oreille	17.1	Pend Oreille
Pierce	8.1	
San Juan	6.2	
Skagit	11.8	Skagit
Skamania	20.4	Skamania
Snohomish	7.3	
Spokane	7.9	
Stevens	13.1	Stevens
Thurston	7.7	
Wahkiakum	12.3	Wahkiakum
Walla Walla	9.1	
Whatcom	8.8	
Whitman	3.7	
Yakima	12.7	Yakima

1/ Data for 1986 and 1987 were revised in March 1988 incorporating updated information on exempt corporate officers and industry employment.

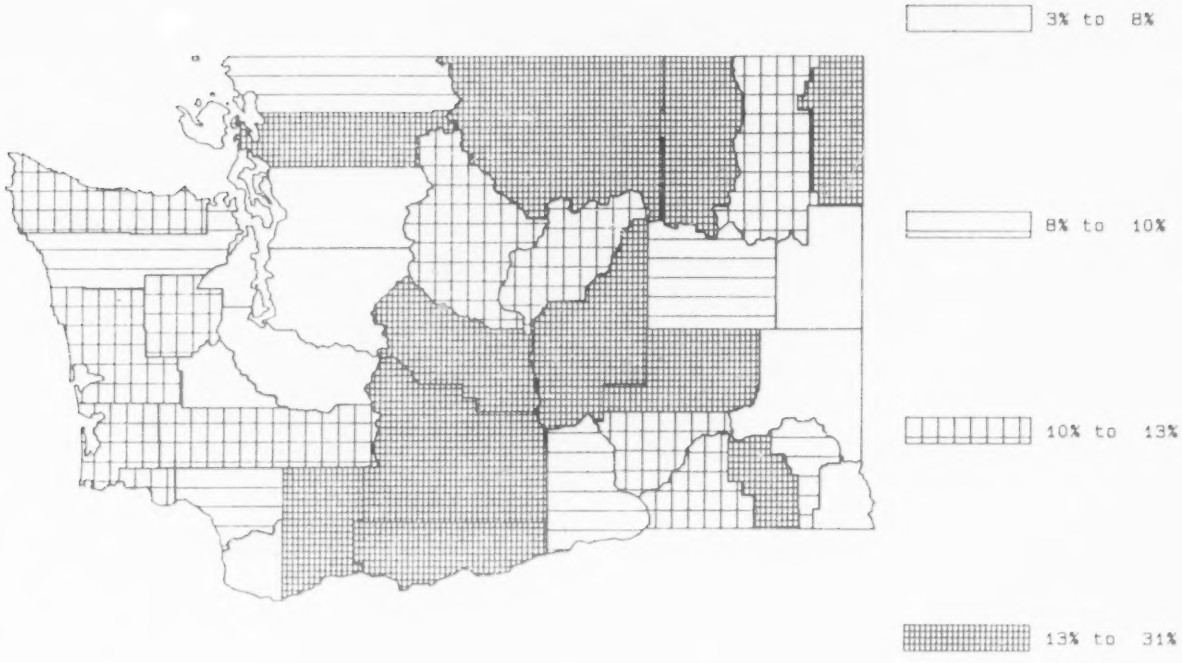
1987 ANNUAL AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS
USED TO DETERMINE DISTRESSED AREAS 1/

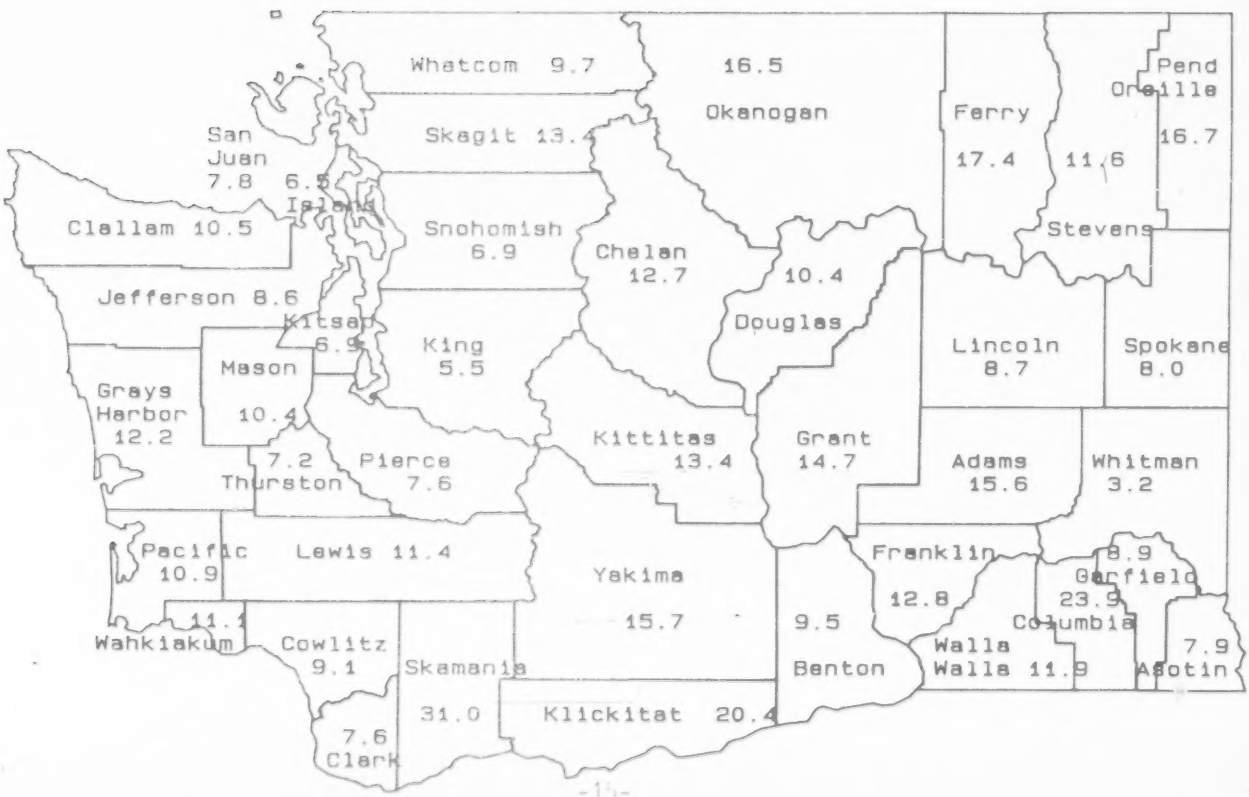
	1987 Annual Average Unemployment Rate (Jan. 87 - Dec. 87)	Unemployment Rate Greater Than or Equal to 9.1 Percent
WASHINGTON STATE	7.6	
Bellingham MSA	8.2	
Bremerton MSA	6.1	
Olympia MSA	7.3	
Seattle PMSA	6.1	
Spokane MSA	7.5	
Tacoma PMSA	8.1	
Tri-Cities MSA	9.6	Tri-Cities MSA
Vancouver PMSA	7.8	
Yakima MSA	11.6	Yakima MSA

1/ Data for 1987 was revised in March 1988 incorporating updated information on exempt corporate officers and industry employment.

FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

State of Washington 7.9





Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

DATE 3/28/88
Benchmark: 1987

	FEBRUARY 1988 PRELIMINARY 1/				JANUARY 1988 REVISED 1/				FEBRUARY 1987 REVISED			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State total	2,267,400	2,089,400	178,000	7.9	2,256,700	2,068,200	188,500	8.4	2,185,700	1,993,600	192,100	8.8
Bellingham MSA	58,900	53,200	5,700	9.7	59,000	52,700	6,300	10.7	55,100	49,700	5,400	9.8
Bremerton MSA	72,500	67,500	5,000	6.9	72,800	67,800	5,000	6.9	70,200	65,700	4,500	6.4
Olympia MSA	76,100	70,600	5,500	7.2	75,000	69,100	5,900	7.9	71,600	65,900	5,700	8.0
Seattle PMSA	1,021,100	961,800	59,300	5.8	1,015,200	952,900	62,300	6.1	976,400	912,900	63,500	6.5
King County 2/	809,300	764,500	44,800	5.5	804,200	757,400	46,800	5.8	774,100	725,600	48,500	6.3
Snohomish County 2/	211,900	197,300	14,600	6.9	210,900	195,500	15,400	7.3	202,300	187,300	15,000	7.4
Spokane MSA	166,800	153,500	13,300	8.0	165,500	151,800	13,700	8.3	163,700	148,700	15,000	9.2
Tacoma PMSA	242,700	224,300	18,400	7.6	241,200	221,800	19,400	8.0	230,600	210,000	20,600	8.9
Tri-Cities MSA	66,000	59,200	6,800	10.3	65,900	58,100	7,800	11.8	67,500	59,400	8,100	12.0
Benton County 2/	50,300	45,500	4,800	9.5	49,900	44,700	5,200	10.4	51,200	45,700	5,500	10.7
Franklin County 2/	15,600	13,600	2,000	12.8	16,000	13,400	2,600	16.3	16,300	13,700	2,600	16.0
Vancouver PMSA	111,100	102,700	8,400	7.6	111,000	102,400	8,600	7.7	106,000	96,500	9,500	9.0
Yakima MSA	84,800	71,500	13,300	15.7	84,400	70,000	14,400	17.1	82,700	69,700	13,000	15.7
Adams	6,290	5,310	980	15.6	6,280	5,110	1,170	18.6	6,380	5,280	1,100	17.2
Asotin	8,720	8,030	690	7.9	8,830	8,110	720	8.2	8,040	7,360	680	8.5
Clallam	22,270	19,940	2,330	10.5	22,470	19,900	2,570	11.4	21,770	19,360	2,410	11.1
Columbia	1,800	1,370	430	23.9	1,850	1,370	480	25.9	1,950	1,370	580	29.7
Cowlitz	34,910	31,720	3,190	9.1	35,020	31,560	3,460	9.9	33,760	30,060	3,700	11.0
Ferry	2,650	2,190	460	17.4	2,660	2,200	460	17.3	2,530	2,190	340	13.4
Garfield	1,010	920	90	8.9	1,010	910	100	9.9	1,110	970	140	12.6
Grant	22,770	19,420	3,350	14.7	22,600	19,080	3,520	15.6	22,470	18,880	3,590	16.0
Grays Harbor	25,230	22,140	3,090	12.2	25,070	21,770	3,300	13.2	26,230	22,920	3,310	12.6
Island	18,370	17,170	1,200	6.5	18,230	16,990	1,240	6.8	17,490	16,270	1,220	7.0
Jefferson	7,400	6,760	640	8.6	7,470	6,770	700	9.4	7,360	6,650	710	9.6
Kittitas	11,250	9,740	1,510	13.4	11,230	9,720	1,510	13.4	11,340	9,870	1,470	13.0
Klickitat	7,690	6,120	1,570	20.4	7,750	6,100	1,650	21.3	7,490	5,480	2,010	26.8
Lewis	24,900	22,070	2,830	11.4	24,380	21,260	3,120	12.8	23,650	20,640	3,010	12.7
Lincoln	3,890	3,550	340	8.7	3,860	3,520	340	8.8	4,180	3,750	430	10.3
Mason	12,460	11,160	1,300	10.4	12,500	11,230	1,270	10.2	11,970	10,650	1,320	11.0
Okanogan	14,830	12,390	2,440	16.5	14,640	12,240	2,400	16.4	14,420	12,100	2,320	16.1
Pacific	6,260	5,580	680	10.9	6,410	5,560	850	13.3	6,500	5,700	800	12.3
Pend Oreille	2,940	2,450	490	16.7	2,940	2,430	510	17.3	3,050	2,320	730	23.9
San Juan	4,720	4,350	370	7.8	4,730	4,340	390	8.2	4,420	3,920	500	11.3
Skagit	31,940	27,650	4,290	13.4	32,260	27,680	4,580	14.2	30,950	26,130	4,820	15.6
Skamania	2,290	1,580	710	31.0	2,350	1,530	820	34.9	2,370	1,620	750	31.6
Stevens	11,050	9,770	1,280	11.6	11,050	9,710	1,340	12.1	11,000	9,240	1,760	16.0
Wahkiakum	1,080	960	120	11.1	1,100	940	160	14.5	1,160	1,020	140	12.1
Walla Walla	23,250	20,490	2,760	11.9	23,120	20,130	2,990	12.9	23,500	20,270	3,230	13.7
Wenatchee Labor Area	39,350	34,650	4,700	11.9	38,960	34,190	4,770	12.2	38,640	33,500	5,140	13.3
Chelan County 2/	26,860	23,450	3,410	12.7	26,440	23,140	3,300	12.5	26,450	22,670	3,780	14.3
Douglas County 2/	12,500	11,200	1,300	10.4	12,510	11,050	1,460	11.7	12,190	10,830	1,360	11.2
Whitman	18,400	17,820	580	3.2	18,060	17,390	670	3.7	18,510	17,720	790	4.3

1/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series.

2/ Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.
Note: Detail may not add due to rounding

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

March 29, 1988
Benchmark: 1987

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	FEBRUARY 1988 PRELIMINARY 1/				JANUARY 1988 REVISED 1/			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State total	2,277,200	2,098,500	178,700	7.8	2,269,200	2,082,700	186,500	8.2
Bellingham MSA	59,100	53,400	5,700	9.6	59,200	53,000	6,200	10.5
Bremerton MSA	72,800	67,800	5,000	6.9	73,300	68,300	5,000	6.8
Olympia MSA	76,500	70,900	5,600	7.3	75,400	69,500	5,900	7.8
Seattle PMSA	1,025,600	966,000	59,600	5.8	1,021,100	959,500	61,600	6.0
King County 2/	812,700	767,800	44,900	5.5	809,000	762,700	46,300	5.7
Snohomish Count. 2/	212,800	198,200	14,600	6.9	212,200	196,900	15,300	7.2
Spokane MSA	167,600	154,200	13,400	8.0	166,400	152,900	13,500	8.1
Tacoma MSA	243,700	225,300	18,400	7.6	242,500	223,300	19,200	7.9
Tri-Cities MSA	66,200	59,400	6,800	10.3	66,300	58,500	7,800	11.8
Benton County 2/	50,500	45,700	4,800	9.5	50,200	45,000	5,200	10.4
Franklin County 2/	15,700	13,700	2,000	12.7	16,100	13,500	2,600	16.1
Vancouver PMSA	111,500	103,100	8,400	7.5	111,600	103,100	8,500	7.6
Yakima MSA	85,100	71,800	13,300	15.6	84,700	70,500	14,200	16.8
Adams	6,320	5,330	990	15.7	6,300	5,150	1,150	18.3
Asotin	8,770	8,070	700	8.0	8,880	8,170	710	8.0
Clallam	22,370	20,030	2,340	10.5	22,590	20,040	2,550	11.3
Columbia	1,800	1,370	430	23.9	1,860	1,380	480	25.8
Cowlitz	35,070	31,860	3,210	9.2	35,200	31,780	3,420	9.7
Ferry	2,670	2,200	470	17.6	2,670	2,210	460	17.2
Garfield	1,020	930	90	8.8	1,020	920	100	9.8
Grant	22,860	19,500	3,360	14.7	22,700	19,210	3,490	15.4
Grays Harbor	25,330	22,230	3,100	12.2	25,190	21,920	3,270	13.0
Island	18,450	17,240	1,210	6.6	18,330	17,100	1,230	6.7
Jefferson	7,430	6,790	640	8.6	7,510	6,820	690	9.2
Kittitas	11,310	9,790	1,520	13.4	11,280	9,790	1,490	13.2
Klickitat	7,730	6,150	1,580	20.4	7,780	6,150	1,630	21.0
Lewis	25,000	22,160	2,840	11.4	24,500	21,410	3,090	12.6
Lincoln	3,900	3,560	340	8.7	3,880	3,540	340	8.8
Mason	12,510	11,210	1,300	10.4	12,570	11,310	1,260	10.0
Okanogan	14,890	12,440	2,450	16.5	14,700	12,330	2,370	16.1
Pacific	6,290	5,600	690	11.0	6,440	5,600	840	13.0
Pend Oreille	2,950	2,460	490	16.6	2,950	2,450	500	16.9
San Juan	4,740	4,370	370	7.8	4,750	4,370	380	8.0
Skagit	32,080	27,770	4,310	13.4	32,400	27,870	4,530	14.0
Skamania	2,290	1,580	710	31.0	2,350	1,540	810	34.5
Stevens	11,100	9,810	1,290	11.6	11,110	9,780	1,330	12.0
Wahkiakum	1,080	960	120	11.1	1,110	950	160	14.4
Walla Walla	23,350	20,580	2,770	11.9	23,230	20,270	2,960	12.7
Wenatchee Labor Area	39,520	34,800	4,720	11.9	39,150	34,430	4,720	12.1
Chelan County 2/	26,970	23,550	3,420	12.7	26,570	23,300	3,270	12.3
Douglas County 2/	12,550	11,250	1,300	10.4	12,580	11,130	1,450	11.5
Whitman	18,480	17,900	580	3.1	18,170	17,510	660	3.6

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.
2/ Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.
Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 1/
(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED Industry	February 1988 (PREL.)	January 1988 (REV.)	February 1987 (REV.)	January 1987 (REV.)	Numerical Change Jan. 1988 to Feb. 1988	Numerical Change Feb. 1987 to Feb. 1988
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY.....	1857.1	1848.9	1773.3	1766.8	8.2	83.8
MANUFACTURING.....	321.9	321.2	304.2	304.3	0.7	17.7
Durable Goods.....	229.5	228.9	214.2	213.7	0.6	15.3
Lumber & Wood Products.....	39.3	39.2	38.3	38.0	0.1	1.0
Furniture & Fixtures.....	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.1	0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass.....	6.2	6.1	5.8	5.7	0.1	0.4
Primary Metals.....	11.9	11.9	11.1	11.4	0.0	0.8
Aluminum.....	8.1	8.1	7.3	7.6	0.0	0.8
Fabricated Metals.....	10.3	10.4	9.6	9.6	-0.1	0.7
Machinery.....	30.4	30.3	28.3	28.4	0.1	2.1
Machinery (Exc. Elec.)...	17.2	17.2	15.5	15.4	0.1	1.8
Electrical Equip.....	13.1	13.1	12.8 _3/	13.0 _3/	0.0	0.3
Transportation Equip.....	112.0	111.8	102.5	101.8	0.2	9.5
Aerospace.....	98.1	98.0	89.2	89.0	0.1	8.9
Other Transp. Equip.....	13.9	13.8	13.3	12.9	0.1	0.6
Instruments & Related.....	10.9	10.8	10.5 _3/	10.6 _3/	0.1	.4
Misc. Manufacturing.....	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.3
Nondurable Goods.....	92.4	92.3	90.0	90.6	0.1	2.4
Food & Kindred Products....	29.8	29.6	28.4	28.1	0.2	1.4
Canned & Preserved Foods.	9.6	9.3	8.8 _3/	9.2	0.3	0.8
Apparel & Allied Products..	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	0.0	0.1
Paper & Allied Products....	16.3	16.4	16.3	16.4	-0.1	0.0
Printing & Publishing.....	20.8	20.7	19.6	19.6	0.1	1.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	11.0	11.1	11.6	11.4	-0.1	-0.6
Other Nondurable Goods 2/.	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.2	0.0	0.3
MINING & QUARRYING	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.7	0.1	0.4
CONSTRUCTION.....	83.0	82.8	77.5	77.5	0.2	5.5
TRANSP.,COMM. & UTIL.....	99.0	99.0	94.7	94.5	0.0	4.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE.....	448.7	452.3	431.0	432.6	-3.6	17.7
Wholesale Trade.....	109.3	108.6	105.5	104.6	0.7	3.8
Retail Trade.....	339.4	343.7	325.5 _3/	328.0 _3/	-4.3	13.9
FIN. INS. & REAL ESTATE.....	106.5	106.3	105.3	104.7	0.2	1.2
SERVICES.....	432.1	426.9	401.8	397.8	5.2	30.3
Health Services.....	133.4	133.0	125.6 _3/	125.6 _3/	0.4	7.8
GOVERNMENT.....	362.8	357.4	356.1	352.7	5.4	6.7
Federal.....	68.9	68.8	68.1	68.7	0.1	0.8
State & Local.....	294.0	288.6	288.0	284.4	5.4	6.0
Education.....	158.5	154.9	157.6	154.6	3.6	0.9
WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES.....	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.4	0.0	-1.5

_1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

_2/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastic products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

_3/ Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management disputes.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Prelim Feb Production Workers Nonsupervisory Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Feb-88	Jan-88	Feb-87	Feb-88	Jan-88	Feb-87	Feb-88	Jan-88	Feb-87
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES*	188,947	$475.60	$478.39	$482.40	40.0	40.1	40.2	$11.89	$11.93	$12.00
SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Lumber and Wood Products	34,351	$427.67	$428.68	$435.11	39.2	38.9	40.4	$10.91	$11.02	$10.77
Primary Metal Industries	9,051	$545.78	$562.05	$540.47	44.3	45.0	43.1	$12.32	$12.49	$12.54
Fabricated Metal Products	7,757	$422.82	$409.22	$440.16	37.2	37.0	39.3	$11.35	$11.06	$11.20
Machinery	17,387	$371.39	$368.28	$385.09	39.3	39.9	39.7	$9.45	$9.23	$9.70
Food and Kindred Products	21,666	$357.34	$359.10	$364.82	36.5	36.2	37.0	$9.79	$9.92	$9.86
Chemical and Allied Products	4,317	$597.96	$599.81	$635.21	40.9	40.5	43.3	$14.62	$14.81	$14.67
Transportation Equipment	47,503	$594.17	$593.74	$616.73	42.9	42.9	42.3	$13.85	$13.84	$14.58
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	57,204	$573.52	$572.61	$582.18	35.8	35.9	36.5	$16.02	$15.95	$15.95
Wholesale and Retail Trade (does not include eating and drinking establishments)	277,030	$310.29	$308.45	$319.14	32.8	32.4	33.7	$9.46	$9.52	$9.47

* Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing production workers reported in this table do not exactly reflect the official US Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of "wages." While these data still constitute a valid economic indicator series, they should not be used at this time for the negotiation of contracts whose monetary provisions may depend upon official US Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly earning data.

** Affected by labor-management disputes

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